

1. SASKATCHEWAN CRAFT COUNCIL

CANDLEMAKING

CRITERIA

References: Health Canada Document
Health Protection Branch – Candle Information Bulletin for Dealers

Health Canada Advisory Document – January 8th 2001
Potential Lead Exposure from Inexpensive Jewellery and Candles with
Lead Core Wicks

Please note: Documents are available at the Saskatchewan Craft Council

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CANDLEMAKING CRITERIA

Design

1. Candle design may be either traditional or original to the maker. Finished pieces must show that the maker has an understanding of design and its application as well as an understanding of the characteristics of the materials chosen.
2. Cast works are acceptable if the master, the mold and the casting are the work of the craftsperson. Commercial molds are acceptable only if the mold is so neutral as to have no influence on the aesthetics of the finished piece.
3. Surface decoration must:
 - show a high level of understanding and application of design principles,
 - be original and show the distinct, personal style of the maker,
 - show that consideration has been given to the integration of the base form into the finished product.
4. Candles must be well proportioned.
5. The maker must maintain hands-on supervision of all work. Mass production or assembly line products will not be accepted.

Materials

1. Low temperature paraffin wax should only be used in container candles.
2. Stearic acid should be used to give paraffin toughness and greater density to prevent sagging or bending.
3. Only pure pigment of either wax or oil may be used to colour candles.
4. Only oil based fragrances may be used to scent a candle.
5. Lead-free metal core wicks must be used in sand-cast candles and all container candles.
6. Wicks must be of a diameter appropriate to the size of the candle to prevent smoking and dripping.
7. Votive jars, candle plates and all other ready-made parts must be subordinate to the overall design. These parts must be fireproof and be of appropriate size and stability to ensure safety.
8. When dried naturals are used to embellish a candle, they must be grown and/or collected by the maker. Flowers must be neatly and securely attached with wax and must not affect the function of the candle.
9. All embellishments must be fireproof, non-toxic and firmly embedded into the candle and should only be used to enhance the design.
10. In general, the candlemaker should have a high level of knowledge of materials, additives and accessories (i.e. – lower melting point for containers; harder wax for free standing pillars; different wick sizes for different blends of wax; use of additives for surface finish, etc.)

Technique

1. Dipping, pouring, casting and molding are acceptable methods of candlemaking. Rolling and gel or glycerine candle kits are not acceptable.
2. Candles must be free of the following defects:
 - fractures and cracks,
 - frost marks and moulting,
 - dull surfaces,
 - blisters and pit marks,
 - spots under the surface.

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3. Candles should stand upright with no dripping and should be made so that they don't drip on only one side.
4. Wicks must be centered in the wax unless the design calls for an off-centre wick
5. Candles must be even at the bottom.

Other

1. Candles submitted to the jury will be burned as a test procedure.
2. Instruction should be attached to the candle if any special care is required.